

to be deported, Mr. Speaker, but they are still here. A quarter of a million people have been ordered deported but are simply roaming the country because the INS chooses not to go after them. I will say this again, that if anything else happens and it is the same sort of situation, somebody else coming into this country and doing that and we choose to do nothing about securing our borders, not only are we irresponsible in this body but we are culpable.

We look to do everything we can. We go to country after country asking for support. We look to cut off their money supply. We look to destroy their infrastructure. We look to every single way there is to try and stop terrorists from perpetrating heinous acts, their acts of hatred on this country, but we are afraid to do one thing. We are afraid to actually begin to control our own borders, because there is a political problem here, a political issue. I think that is despicable. No one should care about how these people will eventually vote. No one should care about whose party would be more benefited by the massive numbers of people coming across our borders. What we should care about is the safety of the Americans here of every race, religion, creed, color. We should be concerned about every single Hispanic American here, citizen, every single black American, every Hindu, Muslim, whatever, I do not care what.

That is our main concern, Mr. Speaker. It is not some political need to keep these borders open that we should be concerned about. And if that concern overrides our major responsibility as a country, as a Federal Government, then I say shame on us, because our responsibility is here clear. The Federal Government has one responsibility, primary responsibility. It is more important than health and human services, it is more important than the Department of Education, the Department of Interior, the Department of Transportation. It is more important than all of that. It is to protect the lives and property of the people in this country. That is it. That is our main goal. Everything else pales in comparison. If we refuse to take that one step that would help in that direction, and I am not suggesting for a moment that even if we seal our borders, we would be absolutely able to be sure, positively, undeniably we will never have another attack of this nature, certainly I cannot say that, but I can say this, we will lessen the chance. And I will dare anyone, I challenge anyone to stand up and explain to me how we can possibly keep open borders under these circumstances. I just simply do not understand it. But we will do it, Mr. Speaker, unless the people of this Nation rise up in a loud voice and let their representatives know that they are concerned, more concerned even than the political problem of closing

down the border, the political ramifications of such a thing.

Again I ask my friends in the Hispanic Caucus, please send a message to our friends, if they are friends, in Mexico. We need their help. It is not just our Nation we are trying to protect. It is civilization. It is not just our morality that we are trying to defend, it is the morality of civilized men and women all over the world. And we need their help. The sign of a friend would be to say, we put aside all these regional differences now, we know that there is something bigger, more dangerous that affects us all, and we will help you secure your border, America, and we will do something else: If the Arab nations that control OPEC, if they attempt to blackmail the United States again by raising the cost of oil, we will sell you oil from our state-owned oil company at lower prices, and we will look to see everything we can do in terms of intelligence gathering to help you in your efforts to quash al Qaeda and any of the other organizations that are designed for the purpose of bringing death and destruction to the United States and the Western hemisphere and civilization.

Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Can their efforts be any more in common with ours than Mexico? But they understood that there is a moral dimension to this that extends all the way through and across their borders. How could we not expect the same from our, quote, trusted neighbor in the South? It is not just our safety that I plead for their support on, it is their own. It is civilization itself that is threatened, make no bones about this. This is not just a war between the United States and Osama bin Laden, or al Qaeda or any of the other various individual terrorist groups. This is a war about whether civilization as we know it, where free thought and individual freedom reign, will be overtaken by the darkness of a barbaric time.

So it is in your interest, Mexico, not just ours, to help in this endeavor. Until that happens, I do not believe we can call you a trusted friend.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1992, INTERNET EQUITY AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. LINDER (during the Special Order of Mr. TANCREDO), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-232) on the resolution (H. Res. 256) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1992) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the opportunities for higher education via telecommunications, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BEREUTER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of official business.

Mrs. WILSON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. REYES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SOUDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEMINT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on October 9, 2001 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 42. Memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

H.J. Res. 51. Approving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment with respect to the products of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 10, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4162. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States; (H. Doc. No. 107-130); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

4163. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency,